

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 NAS-01 EPA-01 FEA-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN EC

SUBJ: INTER-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY CENTER

REF: STATE 177008

1. BASED ON NUMEROUS INTERVIEWS IN OUR ARA, THE OVERWHELMING OPINION HAS BEEN THAT AN INTER-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY CENTER IS A HIGHLY DESIRABLE CONCEP. A CENTER OF THIS NATURE COULD FUNCTION MOST EFFECTIVELY IF NOT ONLY THE PRODUCT BUT THE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND CAPABILITIES WERE SHARED BY THE MEMBER COUNTRIES. ECUADOR PRESENTLY HAS TWO REASONABLE WELL-RATED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTIONS: THE INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION (PART OF THE POLYTECHNICAL INSTITUTE) AND THE INEN (QUALITY CONTROL INSTITUTE). THE LATTER ORGANIZATION WAS ORGINALLY FUNDED BY USAID FROM 1970-1974. INTERNALLY INEN HAS LACKED DIRECTION AND HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT INEFFECTIVE IN INITIATING QUALITY-CONTROL MEASURES.

2. U.S. INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT IN MANAGEMENT OR CONSULTING SERVICES HAS BEEN TRADITIONALLY STRONG IN ECUADOR, ALTHOUGH
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WE LACK SPECIFIC FIGURES IN THIS AREA. THE PROPOSED CENTER

WOULD BE OF MOST VALUE IN PROVIDING INFORMATION SERVICES. WHILE MOST COUNTRIES HAVE INCIPIENT INFORMATION SERVICES ON TECHNOLOGICAL TOPICS (IN ECUADOR IT IS CENDES), IT WOULD BE A MATTER OF REINFORCING THE EXISTING PROGRAMS WITH AN EYE TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY, OBJECTIVENESS AND DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH INFORMATION WITHIN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

3. SUCHA PROGRAM COULD RUN INTO STRONG POLITICAL OPPOSITION. IN ECUADOR THERE ARE UNDERCURRENTS OF RESENTMENT TOWARDS THE U.S. ON THE PART OF CERTAIN GOE AUTHORITIES AND PRIVATE GROUPS BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS REGARDING THE PETROLEUM SITUATION AND SPORADIC "TUNAWARS." HOWEVER, A NEW FORM OF ASSISTANCE AND COLLABORATION, ESPECIALLY IN A FIELD WHICH IS CRUCIAL TO ANY DEVELOPING COUNTRY, MIGHT BE RECEIVED VERY POSITIVELY, ON THE WHOLE, BY THE GOE AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY.
BLOOMFIELD

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